GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6025
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Prisoners on Death Row
Vellaigounder Shri Elumalai

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact there are more than 385 death row prisoners in the country as on date and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there are 136 prisoners on death row who claimed to have not been informed of the reason for their arrest and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the prisoners have been denied access to lawyers while others had been forced to confess for crimes and if so, the action taken by the
Government in this regard; and

(d) whether it has been alleged that many death row prisoners were tortured for over months before a formal arrest was recorded and if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a): A statement containing the State-wise details of the number of convicts with capital punishment lodged in different jails, as compiled by National Crime Records Bureau at the end of 2015, is at Annex.
(b): No such information is centrally available on record.

--2â€”

L.S.US.Q.NO.6025 FOR 11.04.2017

(c) to (d): 'Prisons' is a state subject covered by item 4 under the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The management and administration of prisons falls exclusively in the domain of State Governments and is governed by Prisons Act, 1894 and Prison Manuals of respective State Governments. The Central Government provides assistance to the States in the form of advisories in improving prison administration.
Section 304 of The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 provides for assigning a pleader for the defence of the accused at the expense of the State in case he is not represented by a pleader. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 also provides for free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.

****